

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The Soviet Military Postal Base [redacted] is located in Baden, Austria. The chief of the Military Postal Base until December 1949 was Guards Major Peter Stuk. [redacted] In December 1949 Major Stuk was detached for service in Minsk, USSR, with the Military Postal Distribution Station (VPSP). In December 1949, Guards Captain Burnov (fnu) arrived from Minsk as the chief of the Baden Military Postal Base. He left the Military Postal Base for the military section [redacted] in Baden. [redacted] As of July 1950, Guards Major Bukhantsov (fnu) was chief of the Military Postal Base in Baden. Major Ivan Roshchupkin was deputy chief for political affairs until he was demobilized in April 1950 and went to Dzaudzhikau (NA3-00, E44-40) in the Caucasus. [redacted] The acting chief for political affairs and chief of the Department of Dislocated Mails since April 1950 has been Captain Prokofyev [redacted] Captain Bonadysev (fnu) was secretary of the Party organization until April 1950 when he returned to the USSR. [redacted] Sgt. Sergei Shirokov was the Komsomol organizer for the postal base until May 1950, when he left to study at a military postal training institution. [redacted]

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2. The Military Postal Base in Baden is composed of the following departments: the Exchange Department, Department of Return Mails, Department of Dislocated Mails, Insurance Department, Transportation Department, Administrative and Economic Section, and the Organizational and Secret Section.

Exchange Department

3. The chief of the Exchange Department is Guards Major of the Administrative Service Vasiliiy Semenovich Kiryashko. [redacted]

In addition, the department has three senior postal officers (postal agents) and 15 enlisted men. The main functions of the Exchange Department

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#")

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are as follows: 1) to exchange the mail of the large military units located within the Central Group of Forces (TsGV); 2) to distribute incoming mail, arriving from the USSR by air or train; and 3) to transmit the letters it receives to the Department of Dislocated Mails, and parcels and insured mail, according to invoices, to the Insurance Department. It receives mail from the Department of Return Mails, the Department of Dislocated Mails, and the Insurance Department (outgoing mail in certain cases, including mail being sent by the military personnel of the Central Group of Forces to the USSR and various military areas). The department distributes the mail received from the above-mentioned departments according to the addresses on the parcels. Prior to this, all mail is sorted according to regions and is packed.

4. The Exchange Department has at its disposal two distributing points located outside of the limits of the Military Postal Base, nearer the military units, and maintained by the Military Postal Base. For example, the Military Postal Base in Baden has Distributing Point No. 1 (OP-1) in Vienna, located on Favoritenstrasse, in the building of the Soviet Military Commandant, fourth district of Vienna; and Distributing Point No. 2 (OP-2) in Kecskemet, Hungary. The function of these distributing points is to collect mail from these detached military units and to receive incoming mail for them from the Military Postal Base. A distributing point has only one worker, a chief with the rank of lieutenant.

#### Department of Return Mails

5. Until March 1950, Captain of the Administrative Service Abramnikov (fnu) was chief of the Department of Return Mails. At this time he was released from service for cohabitation with Austrian women.

At present, Senior Lieutenant Rybkin (fnu) is chief of this department. He arrived from the USSR in April 1950.

The department has one other officer, a lieutenant, and 12 enlisted men. The main functions of the Department of Return Mails are: to receive all mail obtained from field post offices of military units in the Exchange Department, to send all incoming mail to the military censor (VTs), to receive censored mail from the military censor, and to sort mail according to the regions of the USSR.

6. The mail received by the Department of Return Mails is divided into two groups: the first group, mail addressed to field post offices, is given to the Department of Dislocated Mails; and the second group of mail, addressed to the USSR proper, is sent to the military censor. After being checked by the military censor, the mail is returned to the Department of Return Mails and sorted according to the regions of the USSR. The sorted mail is packed into special sacks which are then stamped with sealing wax and are given to the Exchange Department, which sends the mail to the USSR by plane and train.
7. Soviet military and civilian personnel working outside the USSR are strictly forbidden to use foreign postal organizations. This is to eliminate the possibility that mail of Soviet citizens might bypass the military censor. A letter sent from the Military Postal Base to the military censor is checked within 24 hours and is then returned to the corresponding department of the Military Postal Base.

#### Department of Dislocated Mails

8. Captain Profkoyev is chief of the Department of Dislocated Mails. Two enlisted men are also assigned to this department. The Department of Dislocated Mails receives, by invoices, mail coming from the USSR to the Central Group of Forces from the Exchange Department and from the Department of Return Mails. From the Exchange Department, the Department of Dislocated Mails receives mail coming from the USSR to the Central Group of Forces. From the Department of Return Mails,

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it receives mail going from field post offices of the Central Group of Forces to other field post offices. The Department of Dislocated Mails (DPO), by using special distribution lists, sorts mail for field post offices, sends mail to the military censor for checking, receives mail from the military censor, and sends checked mail to the Exchange Department to be delivered by railroad mail cars and automobiles to field post offices.

#### Insurance Department

9. Senior Lieutenant Shabarin (fnu) was chief of the Insurance Department until March 1950 when he left for the USSR. 25X1

Sr. Lt. Shabarin was replaced by Captain Khaliev (fnu), who arrived from the USSR in March 1950.

There is only one other man in the Department, an enlisted man. The Insurance Department handles insured mail, parcels, and various registered printed matter. In addition, the Department is responsible for the protection of outgoing mail. The Insurance Department receives parcels and insured mail from the Exchange Department which in turn collects parcels and insured mail from the military personnel of the Central Group of Forces at distributing points located in Austria and Hungary. After recording and sorting the insured mail and parcels, the Insurance Department forwards them to the mail cars, belonging to the Exchange Department, for shipment to their destination. 25X1

10. The Insurance Department turns all insured mail, registered mail and parcel post over to the Department of Return Mails, which sends them to the military censor for checking, in a separate invoiced packet. After it is checked, the mail is sent by the censor to the Department of Return Mails, which, in turn, hands it over to the Insurance Department as per invoice. Following this the Insurance Department directs the mail to its destination.

11. Parcels coming from the USSR from private individuals for military personnel and organizations of the Central Group of Forces are not accepted by military post offices. Only certain State institutions in the USSR have the right to send parcels and printed matter for the various organizations in the Central Group of Forces. For example, parcels of political literature are sent by political military organs in the USSR for the corresponding organs in the Central Group of Forces. these parcels are checked at various military postal centers in the USSR and have on them the following notation: "checker -- so and so". these parcels are not checked by the military censors. 25X1

12. Parcels accepted from the military personnel of the Central Group of Forces are subject to detailed checking at postal (parcel) centers of the Central Group of Forces. no detailed information on these centers or the methods of checking, such parcels are not checked by military censors, but are checked in the presence of the sender at the local military postal center. 25X1

13. Soldiers of the Central Group of Forces are allowed to send each month to their relatives in the USSR packages weighing not over five kilograms, free of charge. Officers are allowed to send packages of not over ten kilograms per month and have to pay the postal charges.

#### Transportation Department

14. The chief of the Transportation Department until April 1950 was Corporal Potapov (fnu), at which time he was promoted to master sergeant and transferred to one of the other departments. 25X1

Corporal Potapov was replaced by a lieutenant. In addition, there are seven enlisted men, most of whom are chauffeurs.

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15. The main function of the Transportation Department of the Military Postal Base was to provide transportation by automobiles for all departments of the Military Postal Base. The Department has six trucks at its disposal. Five of the trucks are American Fords and one a Soviet ZIS.

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All of these trucks run between the Military Postal Base in Baden and Distribution Point No. 1 in Vienna. They deliver and pick up mail from the military censorship department in Baden, located near the Military Postal Base.

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#### Administrative and Economic Section

16. Guards Lieutenant Malyugin was chief of the Administrative and Economic Section (AKhCh) until February 1950.

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Lt. Malyugin was replaced by Lt. Smagin (fnu)

The chief is assisted by two enlisted men. This section performed the usual administrative and economic functions of supplying the Military Postal Base with food and clothing. It has two storerooms for this purpose. This section also receives secret mail coming to the Military Postal Base by field communications.

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#### Organizational and Secret Section (VPB)

17. A major was the chief of the Organizational and Secret Section. The section has no other employees. The function of this section is to draw up schedules of work for the military personnel of the Military Postal Base and schedules for guard duty and various special duties for personnel of the Base.

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#### Subordinate Military Postal Organs

18. The main military postal organ of the Soviet Army is GLAV VPSP or, as otherwise called, VPSP-1 (Military Postal Distribution Center or the Main Military Postal Distribution Center), located in Moscow. The Military Postal Base of the Central Group of Forces in Baden is under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Tsvankov (fnu). It is possible that Lt. Col. Tsvankov, and, consequently, the Military Postal Base in Baden, is under the direction of the chief of the Military Postal Communications of the Central Group of Forces, Major General Tsvankin (fnu). The Military Postal Base of the Central Group of Forces has no checking or police function.

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Military Censorship

19. The Military Postal Base of the Central Group of Forces has the function of coordinating its work with the military censor organs, which, being organs of the MGB, check all mail and thus perform certain police functions. The military censor in Baden, after checking letters coming to it from the Military Postal Base, mark them with a small stamp on the back of the envelopes, "examined by the military censor" 25X1

The envelopes are slit from the right side with a scissors and the contents are removed for reading. After reading the contents, the censor replaces the letter in the envelope, seals it, and places his stamp on the back. Thus, the military censor organs are always able to trace a careless, negligent worker and hold him responsible for having missed any text of strategic importance. Mail destined for the USSR is also checked by a military censor in the USSR in addition to being checked before it leaves the Military Postal Base in Baden, thus preventing any bypassing of the censor. However, the second censoring organ does not fix their stamp to the letter.

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